

Report of:	Director of Environment and Communities - Geoff Field Executive Member for Environment - Councillor Dennis McCabe
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Submitted to:	Executive - 19 January 2021
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Subject:	Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Teesside Crematorium - Service Response
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
Approve the services response to Scrutiny - Teesside Crematorium.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? ¹
Information and approval	Yes	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
People - working with communities and other public services to improve the lives of our residents	Place - securing improvements in Middlesbrough's housing, infrastructure and attractiveness, improving the town's reputation, creating opportunities for local people and improving our finances.	Business - promoting investment in Middlesbrough's economy and making sure we work as effectively as possible to support our ambitions for People and Place.

¹ Remove for non-Executive reports

Ward(s) affected
<i>All Wards</i>

What is the purpose of this report?

The purpose of the report is to inform members of the service response to the final report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Teesside Crematorium.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

Teesside Crematorium serves the whole of Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley and therefore affects all wards.

Report Background

1. The Panel began this scrutiny review with a site visit to Stockton Crematorium followed by a presentation from Middlesbrough Council Officers in February 2020. Arrangements were in place for a site visit to Teesside Crematorium on 31 March 2020. However, on 23 March 2020, the Government introduced measures putting the UK in a state of lockdown due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the site visit was unable to go ahead.
2. The next formal meeting of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel was held on 15 July 2020 and the Panel revised its work plan for completion of the review. It is widely acknowledged that the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic is unprecedented and ongoing, and bereavement services are operating in circumstances previously un-encountered. Despite these uncertain times, the Panel felt it was worthwhile to produce a final report on their findings, acknowledging the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on review of Teesside Crematorium and recommending future updates to ensure that any necessary financial mitigation required is applied.
3. Officers on the 8th of August 2020 provided the Panel with a presentation (see Appendix 1) which set out recent and proposed improvements to Teesside Crematorium, impact of Stockton / Kirkleatham Crematorium together with associated impact on the Councils medium term financial plan (MTFP) and proposed mitigation measures.
4. The four recommendations of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – Teesside Crematorium are;-
 - A six-monthly update on income and any mitigation required should be provided to the Scrutiny Panel until further notice.
 - The potential for Teesside Crematorium to offer a Direct Cremation Service should be explored.
 - The possibility of voile curtains being installed around the catafalques in St Bede's and St Hilda's Chapels should be explored.

- Car parking arrangements should be reviewed to ascertain whether further spaces could be made available and whether the disabled parking spaces could be re-located nearer to the Chapel entrances.

5. An action plan has been produced by the service to deliver these recommendations (see Appendix 2) setting out the agreed actions, responsible officer, associated costs and proposed timescales for delivery.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

6. Approve the service response to Scrutiny - Teesside Crematorium.

Why is this being recommended?

7. The proposed action plan is in keeping with the recommendations of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Teesside Crematorium

Legal

8. There are no legal issues to consider.

Financial

9. The financial costs associated with the action plan are fully set out in Appendix 2.

Policy Framework

10. The action plan is in keeping with recommendations of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – Teesside Crematorium. Scrutiny undertook the short review in accordance with both the Councils Strategic Plan and its own internal governance framework.

Equality and Diversity

11. The action plan will have a positive impact on both groups with disabilities (parking / traffic plan) and low income groups (direct cremations).

Risk

12. The action plan will assist in monitoring the risks associated with the impact of Stockton /Kirkleatham on Teesside Crematorium and the Councils Medium term Financial Plan (MTFP) as well as considering associated mitigation measures.

07-006	Loss of Crematorium Income Review fees and price structures for 2013/14 onwards - monitor fees charged by new operator. Keep benchmarking.
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Middlesbrough Council	Final Report of The Economic Development, Environment and infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – Teesside Crematorium.	5 th of November 2020

Appendix 1 Scrutiny Presentation 8th of September 2020

Appendix 2 Scrutiny Action Plan

Appendix 3 Impact Assessment Stage 1.

Contact: Martin Shepherd

Email: Martin_Shepherd@middlesbrough.gov.uk